

## TRIBAL ACTIVITIES

### New Registry Will Present Living Cultures

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National Museum of the American Indian

Presenting the living cultures of indigenous Americans is part of the mission of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Established by Act of Congress in 1989, NMAI is an institution of living cultures dedicated to the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of the native peoples of the Western Hemisphere. NMAI has four components: a center in New York

(the George Gustav Heye Center [GGHC]); a collections and research facility (the Cultural Resource Center in Suitland, Maryland); a pioneering museum on the National Mall in Washington D.C. (opening in the fall of 2004); and a permanent outreach presence in Indian Country ("The Fourth Museum," a museum-without-walls).

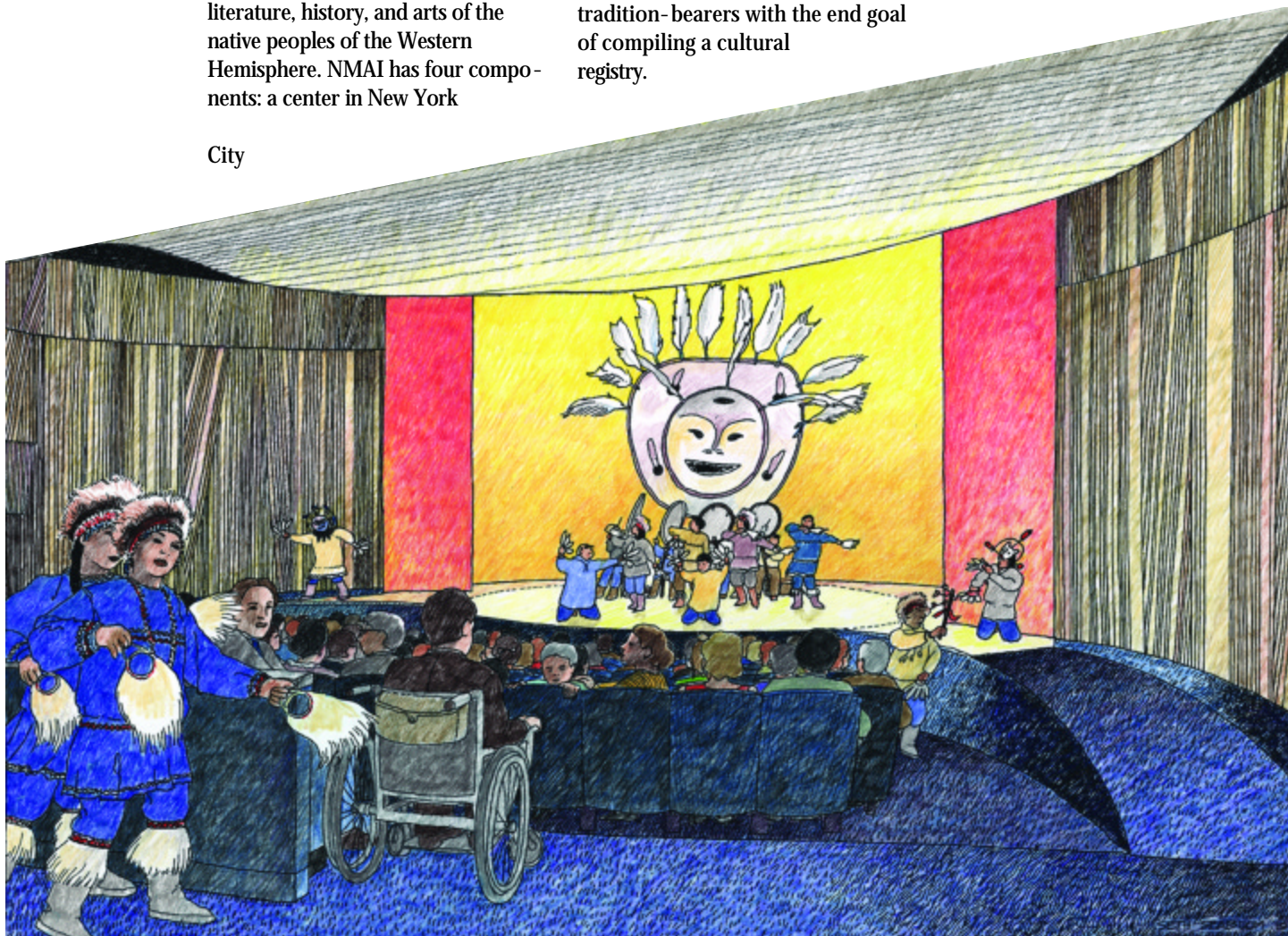
Although many efforts at each of these facilities present Native cultures to the public, staff at the DC site have begun a formal search and outreach effort to identify native tradition-bearers with the end goal of compiling a cultural registry.

This registry will provide a database of contact information for native artists, dancers, musicians, artisans, scholars, writers, poets, speakers, leaders, storytellers, and others who could be called upon for future museum programs. In addition, the information will be available to be shared with others interested in cultural resources throughout the field.

*(below) NMAI will have a 300-seat theater designed to present many types of performances, including dance, both solo and ensemble music concerts, dialogues, and discussions.*

*(opposite) Watercolor rendering shows the eastern end of the National Museum of the American Indian, highlighting the building's natural landscape and dramatic east-facing entrance. Both renderings by Elizabeth Day.*

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With a primary mission of pre-sending programs in the native voice, the museum is committed to “grass roots” performers and resources as well as to well-established artists of all kinds. The DC staff takes its lead from program staff at the GGHC, where a myriad of programs have been offered over the last eight years. Programs being considered for the Mall facility include storytelling, author events, issues-oriented dialogue programs, demonstrations, community-based performances, and living arts performances (including music, dance, and theater). Programs will be designed for a variety of audiences, including families, school groups, teens, and adults, depending on

focus and program content. While the primary goal of NMAI is to serve the interests of native people, it is understood that the vast majority of museum visitors will be non-native, many with stereotyped images of Indians in mind. Therefore, an additional goal of these programs is to provide a real alternative to these stereotypes.

Anyone who would like to be listed in the registry or would like to know more about the registry is encouraged to visit the museum’s website ([www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu)) where a basic registry form is downloadable, along with more information on the types of programs being planned for the new Mall facility.

Questions or comments on the registry or NMAI’s program plans can be directed to Howard Bass, Senior Public Programs Producer, at: The National Museum of the American Indian, P.O. Box 37012; 470 L’Enfant Plaza, Suite 7103; MRC 934; Washington, DC 20013-7012; e-mail: [bassh@si.edu](mailto:bassh@si.edu); fax: 202/287-3528; phone: 202/287-2020, x-137.



### *Current Listing of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices*

As of October 31, 2002, the listing of Native American tribes with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices is as follows:

- Caddo Tribe (Oklahoma)
- Catawba Indian Nation (South Carolina)
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (South Dakota)
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Washington)
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (North Carolina)
- Hualapai Tribe (Arizona)
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Wisconsin)
- Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (Minnesota)
- Makah Tribe (Washington)
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (Wisconsin)
- Mescalero Apache Tribe (New Mexico)
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians (Minnesota)
- Narragansett Indian Tribe (Rhode Island)
- Navajo Nation (Arizona)
- Passamaquoddy Tribe (Maine)
- Oneida Nation (Wisconsin)
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians (Alabama)
- Pueblo of Zuni (New Mexico)
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas (Wisconsin)
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (Montana)
- Seneca Nation of Indians (New York)
- Skokomish Indian Tribe (Washington)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (Washington)
- Squaxin Island Tribe (Washington)
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota)
- Table Bluff-Wiyot Tribe (California)
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe (California)
- Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana (Louisiana)
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (North Dakota)
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation (Oregon)
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah, Massachusetts)
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon (Oregon)
- White Mountain Apache Tribe (Arizona)
- Yurok Tribe (California)

For more information on THPOs, contact H. Bryan Mitchell at 202/354-2078, e-mail: [bryan\\_mitchell@nps.gov](mailto:bryan_mitchell@nps.gov)